

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

August 5, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-204
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nydia Velazquez
Chairwoman
Committee on Small Business
2361 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Steve Chabot
Ranking Member
Committee on Small Business
2069 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader McCarthy, Chairwoman Velazquez, and Ranking Member Chabot,

We write to request the inclusion of the *Expanding Assistance to Farmers Act of 2020* (H.R. 7619) in the next COVID-19 relief package. This bipartisan proposal would allow farmers and ranchers to use loans provided through the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) toward rental payments on agricultural land, buildings, and critical equipment.

When the Paycheck Protection Program launched, there was uncertainty whether agricultural producers, farmers, and ranchers were eligible for PPP loans. It wasn't until the Small Business Administration released FAQ #34 on April 24, 2020 that this discrepancy was clarified. As members who represent regions with many family farms and small agricultural operations, we believe that future changes to the program should provide as much flexibility as possible to producers. By ensuring all agricultural rental expenses can be covered under PPP, farmers will be able to cover some of their most costly expenses.

The *Expanding Assistance to Farmers Act* would clarify that agricultural operations' rental payments on land, buildings, and equipment can be covered by PPP loans. Agriculture is a unique industry and this fix ensures the program meets the needs of farmers and ranchers. This bipartisan legislation has the support of the Association of Equipment Manufacturers and the American Farm Bureau Federation, and its inclusion in the next package will be especially critical if we invest additional resources into the program.


No sector of our economy is untouched by the COVID-19 pandemic. We thank you for your consideration of our request to help deliver for our farmers and ranchers in the next relief package.

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

Sincerely,



Dan Bishop
Member of Congress



Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress



Abby Finkenauer
Member of Congress